The 'Heil' Folks Help Fill Peace Now's Till

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Movement's Plea for Funds Attracts Hatelers; G-Men Take a Look

By M. M. Marberry

The march through the open doors of the Peace Now movement got under way today as last-ditch America Firsters, unreconciled Christian Frontiers and/or Bundists, and an amazing collection of thimbleriggers and leafy-brains gathered, intent on swallowing up whatever traces of honest pacifism remain in the organization.

Attracted by columns of publicity given the movement—which was set off by PM's original expose of the peace-before-victory cult four weeks ago—the I-hate-Roosevelt boys, the Hitler-isn't so-awful disciples, and the I'm-an-Aryan-for-Peace pleaders filed in to fill out pledge cards and leave their contributions. The character of the visitors were not questioned, but the money they deposited was examined pretty carefully.

G-Men Turn Up

Along with those who made their way to room 900, at the 15 E. 40th St. headquarters of Peace Now, came other visitors—the cops, the FBI agents, the reporters and the photographers. And the agent of the building, wondering, inevitably, "what's going on here?"

Though Peace Now has ample capital to issue slews of costly propagandistic pamphlets, its office is fairly small, plain and severe. It is relieved only by stacks of peace literature and the stern, thoroughly unpeaceful faces of its professional Peace Now advocates.

The reverse patriots who burst into this room were more colorful. There was the woman dressed in purple, wearing a picture hat, who skipped through the doorway, gave a floppy fascist-like salute, and screamed:

"Peace—America First!"

The Peace Now attendants smiled benevolently and led her to a table. There she was relieved of money and her signature.

Mayflower Stuff

As she was being loaded with peace pamphlets, this lady made her "Aryanism" quite clear, declaring:

"A member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants I am, too."

Lowering her voice to a shout, this lady then declared:

"But John Haynes Holmes. I'm against him. How can he be for peace, like he says, when he's against Hitler?"

There also was the stubby little gentleman, wearing a goatee and cropped mustache, who wandered about the room softly quoting the Bible.

"Lots of good stuff in the Bible, as far as peace goes," he confided.

There was the man who sidled in, whispering, speakeasy fashion, for some "material." Then seeing he was among friends, he declared:

"I was a real American First member; we've got to fight just as hard in this organization."

And there were the many visitors who, peering furtively through the doorway, beckoned for Miss Bessie Simon, Peace Now executive secretary, to come out in the hall for words. Miss Simon always obliged, and she came back smiling wisely.

Miss Simon, a small person with iron-grey hair, who appears to be one Peace Now booster who is sincerely pacifistic, is the former office manager of America First in Washington. She is a confidante of many isolationist s ocialites and Congressmen.

"I know Sen. Wheeler quite well, of course, and often consult with him," she stated proudly.

The chore of talking to the more sinister looking characters who showed up in Room 900 was left by Miss Simon to an assistant, Mrs. Elizabeth Nixdorff. Mrs. Nixdorff is a bustling woman. She once was treasurer for Women United, a dead branch of the America First Committee.

Letters Missing

What distressed Miss Simon most yesterday was not the visits of Peace Now's peculiar clientele, but the fact that someone had dipped into the Movement's files and extracted letters written to Sens. Wheeler and Nye; Gen. Robert E. Wood; Charles A. Lindbergh, an airplane man, and others of the same stamp.

Making no accusations, Miss Simon pointed out that the beautiful blonde girl whom she had hired as stenographer several weeks ago had disappeared the day after the letters were found missing.

Peace Now is elated with the publicity it has received, feeling that many members will be drawn into the fold. The organization plans on expanding, adding chapters in the fertile Midwestern field, and in cities where racial outbreaks have been especially prominent—such as Detroit, Boston, Beaumont and Mobile.